

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

February 24, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
IAC Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Earl Williams, Chair

Minutes

Members present: none

Members via teleconference: Jeff Kirk, Suzie Rentschler, Pam Hicks, Judy Hess, Trevor Yager, Jeanne Mirro (ex officio)

Members absent: Earl Williams, Kelly Schreckengast, Linda Goad, Linda Levell

IAC staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Bobbie Garver, Susan Britsch, Kristina Davis, Dennis Hardin

Note: Due to lack of quorum, no actions were taken during this meeting. Action items are deferred to a brief meeting of the PEC prior to the Quarterly Business meeting on March 11, 2011.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** In the absence of Chair Earl Williams, IAC Commissioner Pam Hicks opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent Agenda.** No action was taken.

3. **Cultural Districts.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci recounted that three communities have been designated as state-wide cultural districts, and that no communities were approved for the designation during the 2011 application cycle. The city of Muncie appealed its denial, and a select committee of Commissioners reviewed the appeal, the results of which will be presented to the Executive Committee at its next meeting. Mr. Ricci reminded the PEC that, at its last meeting, it had expressed a desire to review the current criteria under which applications are reviewed. He suggested that the IAC Chair appoint a select committee to conduct such a review. He went on to explain that IAC will be hosting a community colloquium in partnership with Ball State University later this year, and that useful input will be gained during those discussions; he suggested that the select committee meet at a time after the colloquium. Mr. Ricci suggested that IAC consider accepting applications in this category every two years, rather than every year. This would allow time for interested communities to be mentored with regard to the criteria, rather than seeing the same communities apply on a yearly basis with the same negative result. IAC Chair Jeanne Mirro agreed that the two-year cycle is worthy of consideration. IAC Commissioner Trevor Yager also

agreed, and added that IAC should reach out to communities and become pro-active in the process, because ultimately, it is desirable for communities to succeed in the process. IAC Commissioner Suzie Rentschler agreed with this approach. The matter will be referred to a select committee to be named later.

4. 2012 Arts in Education Grant Program Discussion. IAC Community Development Manager/Arts in Education Coordinator Susan Britsch explained to the committee that IAC's endeavors to provide funding for arts education experiences have had mixed results. Up to this time, grants have been made available to individual schools throughout the state, but in many cases, schools are not applying for the grants because of the amount of time and effort needed to administer such grants, and that the relatively small amount of funding per grant minimizes the desire to participate. Ms. Britsch, along with Mr. Ricci, have been exploring other avenues to provide arts education experiences in the schools. Some of the ideas under consideration include providing project grants to individual artists, who would use the funds to visit schools, or to reduce the total number of grants available, but to increase the amount of funding for each grant, making them more relevant and desirable. Another suggestion is to utilize IAC's partners around the state to identify specific schools that could benefit from a larger grant. IAC's Arts in Education grants are funded fully by interest drawn from the Cultural Arts Trust; currently, there is approximately \$53,000 in interest available, which will be used over the next two years. Mr. Ricci suggested that an ad-hoc committee of Commissioners could be appointed to more fully explore the possibilities and make recommendations to the Program Evaluation Committee. IAC Commissioners Judy Hess from Corydon and Jeanne Mirro from Fort Wayne offered to be a part of the committee.

5. Regional Arts Partners Update. IAC Community Development Manager Bobbie Garver reported that IAC has received 13 letters of intent from organizations which will apply to become a Regional Arts Partner in a 4-year cycle beginning in July 2011. She also reported that three current Regional Arts Partners will not be applying to continue as a Partner, those being Arts Place, the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, and the Bloomington Department of Economic and Sustainable Development. Mr. Ricci suggested that, given the likelihood of having fewer RAPs, this is a good opportunity to reevaluate the physical descriptions of the Regions, perhaps to re-align the number of counties in each Region. Commissioner Pam Hicks offered her appreciation and thanks to the IAC staff, and to Bobbie Garver in particular.

6. Old Business. There was no old business.

7. New Business. Commissioner Hicks offered congratulations to Commissioner Trevor Yager, who was recently profiled by the Indianapolis Business Journal as one of its "Forty Under Forty."

8. Adjourn. Ms. Hicks reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting of the Program Evaluation Committee will be June 16, 2011. She closed the meeting at 2:45 p.m.